



Unifying theory for terrestrial research infrastructures

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The presentation will elaborate on basic steps needed for building a common theoretical base between Research Infrastructures focusing on terrestrial ecosystems. This theoretical base is needed for developing a better cooperation and integrating in the near future. An overview of different theories will be given and ways to a unifying approach explored. In the second step more practical implications of a theory-guided integration will be developed alongside the following guiding questions:

- How do the existing and planned European environmental RIs map on a possible unifying theory on terrestrial ecosystems (covered structures and functions, scale; overlaps and gaps)
- Can a unifying theory improve the consistent definition of RI's scientific scope and focal science questions?
- How could a division of tasks between RIs be organized in order to minimize parallel efforts?
- Where concretely do existing and planned European environmental RIs need to interact to respond to overarching questions (top down component)?
- What practical fora and mechanisms (across RIs) would be needed to bridge the gap between PI driven (bottom up) efforts and the centralistic RI design and operations?